

Excerpt from Satonji-Harada Memoirs,

Chapter 364

4 June, 1940

The Emperor is said to have instructed the Imperial Household Minister: "WAKATSUKI" is a candidate for the position. However, because of the London Treaty, and the fact that he was the President of the Minseito for a long time, there may be obstacles because the feeling against him will not abate. KONOYE is also a likely candidate, but he has too many men around him. Besides this, there is a necessity for him to actually lead political parties in the future and I believe that we should refrain from bringing him up at this time. HIRANUMA appears to keep confidences well, but the Genro will, in all probability, object to this. I believe that KIDO would be suitable, but he is young and it would be very regrettable if it should cost him his political future."

The above was the opinion of the Emperor. I was summoned by the Imperial Household Minister at 10:00 p.m. of the 30th, and he said: "I wonder which one Prince SATONJI would select, or perhaps there are

some other persons. Please go to Okitsu immediately tomorrow morning." I had some opinions of my own and there was a necessity to gain the opinions of others. Therefore, I asked for the opinions of KONOYE, MATSUDAIRA, Admiral OKADA and the like, and the point on which they all agreed was that KIDO would be the safest. KIDO was well acquainted with matters within the Imperial Household and also with recent political conditions. I met the Premier and asked his opinion on the matter and he replied: "There is no objection to KIDO."

I went to Okitsu from Shizuoka on the Tsubame on the 31st and immediately met the Prince. When I relayed the message of the Emperor to the Prince, he said: "Due to the fact that I have just recovered from an illness and am quite well on in years, there have been many recent issues on which I am not well informed. Although this is inexcusable, I cannot make a reply. Please say this and apologize for me. This is not a reply, but if they are to seek a man, how about IKKI or OKADA?" I (HARADA) then said: "You previously said that this was such an important matter that I should not repeat your opinions to anyone. If

it is so important, how about expressing your thoughts on this subject to the Emperor?" The Prince, however, remained adamant.

Later, at around 3:00 p.m. I called the Imperial Household Minister and conveyed this fact. The Imperial Household Minister replied: "You are quite correct. Accordingly, I shall visit the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal and consult with him personally. After that I shall learn the views of the Emperor and I shall call you again. Wait for the call."

At a little past 7:30 p.m., there was a call from the Imperial Household Minister. He said: "The Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal said that he recommends KIDO to succeed him. I am of the same opinion. When I reported this fact to the Emperor, he gave his approval and said that he has confidence in KIDO. However, the Emperor added that there might be some opposition and to ask the opinion of SAIONJI. Therefore, ask the Prince of this matter."

I went to the Prince's place after 8:00 p.m. and conveyed the message of the Imperial Household Minister. The Prince said: "The original method of going about this matter seemed very irresponsible, so although

DEF. DOC. #3042

it is a very painful matter, I trouble you. The fact is that there is nothing more excellent than to have a predecessor recommend a successor, then have that person endorsed by a Minister who should be in favor of him (in other words, the Imperial Household Minister) and then gain the approval of the Emperor. I am very satisfied and there is absolutely no objection on my part." Therefore, I immediately called the Imperial Household Minister and asked him to convey this message to the Emperor. The Imperial Household Minister was quite happy and said: "I intend to speak to the Premier tomorrow morning (June 6th), and also to KONOYE who is the President of the Privy Council. After this, I intend to have the investiture. Please stay at Okitsu until the ceremonies are over."

Therefore, I waited in Okitsu. The following day, the Imperial Household Minister conferred with KONOYE over the phone and he was of the same opinion. The Premier also agreed. Accordingly, KIDO was summoned directly by the Imperial Household Minister and KIDO replied that he would give an answer after consulting with KONOYE. As a result of this conference, KIDO accepted and the investiture was safely concluded.

西園寺原田日記 第三百六十四回抜萃

昭和十五年（一九四〇年）六月四日

さうして陛下は宮内大臣に

「若槻なども一人の後補者だけれども、若槻に就てはロンドン條約と長年民政黨の總裁であつたと云ふことで反對黨の氣持が何時迄も解けない、と云ふことが邪魔になりはせんが又近衛は好いが少うし大勢いろいろな者がつぎ過ぎてゐるのと、更に將來實際政黨を運営する必要があるもので今俄に内大臣にもつて來ることは差控へたいと思ふ。平沼は機密は守るやうだがどうも之は奥津がとても賛成はすまい。木戸は自分は好いと思ふが少し若いし將來の政治的生命を失はせても可哀想だがどんなものだらうか。これだけが陛下の御言葉で「これ等に就て誰を西園寺公は好いと思ふか。又これ以外に人があるかどうか、」と云ふので宮内大臣から三十日の午後十時に自分

西園寺原田日記 第三百六十四回 拔萃

昭和十五年（一九四〇年）六月四日

Exh. No

さうして陛下は宮内大臣に

「若槻なども一人の後補者だけれども、若槻に就てはロンドン條約と長年民政黨の總裁であつたと云ふことで反對黨の氣持が何時迄も解けない、と云ふことが邪魔になりはせんが又近衛は好いが少うし大勢いろいろなる者がつき過ぎてゐるのと、更に將來實際政黨を運営する必要があるので今後に内大臣にもつて來ることは差控へたいと思ふ。平沼は機密は守るやうだがどうも之は與津がとても賛成はすまい。木戸は自分は好いと思ふが少し若いし將來の政治的生命を失はせても可哀想だがどんなものだらうか。これだけが陛下の御言葉で「これ等に就て誰を西園寺公は好いと思ふか。又これ以外に人があるかどうか、」と云ふので宮内大臣から三十日の午後十時に自分

Ref. No. 3042

は呼ばれて其話をされ、「明勅でもすぐ具津に行つてくれ」と云ふ
 ことであつたので其前から後編者に就てはいろいろ考もあり、又い
 ろんな人の意見も聞かなければならないので、近衛とも話し松平と
 も、或は岡田大將なんかの意見も聞いて見た處がやはり諸する處は
 、木戸が一音無難だと云ふことになり又宮中のことも相管知つて居
 り、政治の最近の事情にも精通して居るので、やはり木戸が好いと
 云ふことになつて居つたのであるけれども、總理大臣にも一應會つ
 て此を聞いて見た處が「木戸で異存はない」と云ふことであつた。
 三十一日の燕で自分は尋問から具津に行つて直ちに公爵に御目にか
 かつて陛下の御間の筋を傳へた處が「自分は病後でもあり御存知の
 通り老婦で近頃頗る事情に疎くなつた點もあつて、洵に申請ないけ
 れども此御下問には尋答致しかねる、と言つて御断りしろ。
 同は之は尋答ではないが、若し人を求めたら一木或は岡田の如きは
 どうか一

それから自分は此前から申上げて公卿も、大事なことであるから自分の意見は人に言ふな、と云ふお話であつた位軍大に思つて居られたんだから、何とか陛下に言つても此範圍でお考を言はれたらどうかと公卿にお話したがどうしても言かれないので、自分は午後三時頃、宮内大臣に其由を電話で傳へた處が「御尤もだと思ふ。因つて自分の方はこれから内大臣を勅ね、皇親病床で相殿の上陛下の御様子を見て、其上再び電話するからそちらに待つてゐてくれ」と云ふ話であつた。すると午後七時半過ぎに再び宮内大臣から電話がかつて「言は内大臣は『後任者として不戸を退任する』自分はやはりりどうも不戸よりないと厚ふから同意である、で此由を陛下に申上げた處が陛下も不戸には御信任があり、宜しい、と云ふ處で御意可があるが、これがこれに御意はないか一應西園寺に聞け」と云ふお話であるから公卿に其由を傳へて一つ御意見を聞いてくれ」と云ふのであつた、自分は八時過ぎに公卿の所に於て宮内大臣からの話を

其趣傳へると公署は「どうも意図のもって行き方が無責任なやり方だから少し氣の毒だったが知らせてやった事は今言つて来たやうに先づ前任者が後任者を推薦し副官をすべき大臣がそれに同意し（即ち宮内大臣）閣下が御可になれば、これ位結構なことはない。自分には非常に満足で決して異存のありよう等はない」と云ふ公署の言明であつたから自分は其由を直ぐ閣下に申上げてくれるやうに宮内大臣に電話したところが大臣も非常に喜んで「明日（六月一日）の午前中に總理にも話し又松野野郎長である近衛にも話した上午後には任式をする心算だ」と云ふ返事で「その任式の席まで其處にゐてくれ」と云ふ話で自分もそのつもりで待つてゐたところが翌日、宮内大臣は電話で近衛と打合せたところが同意であり、松野も之に同意である。附つて木戸と宮内大臣は木戸を直接よんで話したところが木戸は「近衛と松野の上御返事をする」と云ふのであつたがその結果木戸はお受けすることになつた。其午後三時に無事任式を取り行はせられて遂に木戸は内大臣に就任することになつた。